



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 171**

*January Session, 2005*

House Bill No. 5911

*House of Representatives, April 5, 2005*

The Committee on Commerce reported through REP. BERGER of the 73rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND APPRENTICE TRAINING.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The Office of Workforce
- 2 Competitiveness shall administer a workforce training program, in
- 3 cooperation with the Commissioners of Economic and Community
- 4 Development, Higher Education, Education, the Labor Commissioner
- 5 and the executive head of any other state agency or quasi-public
- 6 agency that the Office of Workforce Competitiveness deems
- 7 appropriate. Said workforce training program shall (1) meet the needs
- 8 of small and medium sized manufacturers and other businesses to
- 9 enable such manufacturers and businesses to remain competitive, (2)
- 10 include training to increase the skills of employees, including, but not
- 11 limited to, training in written and oral communication, mathematics or
- 12 science or specific technologies and technological skills, and (3)
- 13 encourage multibusiness collaborations to the extent possible and
- 14 utilize collaborative training responses as appropriate. Said office shall,

15 to the extent possible, arrange for the participation of the following in  
16 implementing the workforce training program: Regional community-  
17 technical colleges, the Connecticut State University system, other  
18 institutions of higher education, other postsecondary institutions,  
19 adult education programs, opportunities industrialization centers and  
20 state regional vocational-technical schools. Said office may also  
21 arrange for other training providers to participate in the program.

22 (b) Upon receipt of a request from an employer for workforce  
23 training under the workforce training program, the Office of  
24 Workforce Competitiveness shall notify educational and economic  
25 development state agencies and quasi-public agencies, as appropriate,  
26 of the request. Said office shall determine if a training program already  
27 exists or can be designed at an educational institution to meet such  
28 training request. An employer may consider or choose other providers  
29 to meet the training needs of such employer under the workforce  
30 training, provided said office approves such employer's use of such  
31 other providers. As a condition of receiving training for its employees  
32 under the program, an employer shall provide a fifty per cent financial  
33 or in-kind match of the state's cost for such training.

34 Sec. 2. Section 10a-101 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
35 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

36 Whenever the term "state colleges" appears in sections 3-27a, 4-31a,  
37 5-177, 5-275, 10-109a to 10-109d, inclusive, 10-110, 10-113, 10-114, 10-  
38 115, 10-115b, 10-115c, 10-115d, 10-115e, 10-115g, 10-115h, 10-115i, 10-  
39 116, 10-149, 10-155, 10-325c, 10-326b [,] and 10-334, [and 31-3c,] it shall  
40 be deemed to mean the "Connecticut State University" system.

41 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The sum of two million dollars is  
42 appropriated to the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, from the  
43 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for the purposes  
44 of section 1 of this act.

45 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand  
46 dollars is appropriated to the Labor Department, from the General

47 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for the apprentice  
48 training program under Part Ia of chapter 557 of the general statutes.

49 Sec. 5. Section 31-3c of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective July*  
50 *1, 2005*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10a-101
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	31-3c repealed

**CE**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 06 \$</b>
Workforce Competitiveness, Off.	GF - Cost	\$2 million
Labor Dept.	GF - Cost	\$250,000
Labor Dept.	GF - Revenue Gain	Indeterminate

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

This bill establishes a workforce training program to be developed by the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) with the assistance of several state agencies. The bill appropriates \$2 million in FY 06 to OWC to provide training grants, matched 50:50, to businesses for training new or existing workers with an emphasis on maintaining skilled older workers in the workforce and building skills of existing workers to address new products and processes. The program replaces the Labor Department's (DOL's) customized job training program.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 to DOL in FY 06 for their apprenticeship program. This funding would be used for additional positions. The staff will be utilized to create new and additional apprenticeships as well as providing direct services to apprenticeship sponsors. To the extent that new apprenticeship programs are initiated, DOL will have a revenue gain for the fees charged to the apprentices (\$25) and their employers (\$30/per apprentice).

Funding for the cost of the workforce training and apprenticeship programs has not been included in HB 6671 (the Appropriations Act for the 2005-2007 biennium, as recommended by the governor).

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

HB 5911

**AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND  
APPRENTICE TRAINING****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes a program to help businesses identify and access job training programs that suit their needs, appropriates \$ 2 million for this purpose, and eliminates an existing similar program geared mainly toward manufacturers and other industries that do most of their business out of state (i.e., economic base businesses). The bill requires the Office of Workforce Competitiveness (OWC) to administer the program in cooperation with several specified agencies.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 for FY 2006 for the Department of Labor's (DOL) apprentice training program, which consists of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction in over 400 apprenticeable trades leading to certification.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

**WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM*****Purpose***

The new program must help small and medium-sized manufacturers and other businesses identify and access job training programs that can help them remain competitive, increase their workers' skills, and encourage them to collaborate with each other on addressing their workforce needs. The job training must include written and oral communications, mathematics or science, and training in specific technologies or technological skills.

The program replaces DOL's customized job training program, which also helps businesses access existing job training programs, but does not expressly require collaborative approaches. Current law requires DOL to fund the program with funds appropriated for its vocational and manpower training programs.

**Administration**

OWC must administer the program in cooperation with the education, labor, higher education, and economic and community development commissioners and the executive heads of any other state or quasi-public agency OWC deems appropriate.

OWC must also involve various higher education and training institutions when helping businesses. These include the regional community-technical colleges, the Connecticut State University system, other higher education institutions, adult education programs, opportunities industrialization centers, and state regional vocational-technical schools. OWC can also involve other job training providers.

**Process**

The bill specifies a process OWC must follow when responding to a business' request for job training assistance. OWC must notify the appropriate educational or economic development agency and determine if they have a program that addresses the business' need or can design one that does. The business can accept the program or choose one offered by a different job training provider, if OWC approves. In either case, the business must match the half the state's cost with funds or in-kind services.

Current law specifies a similar process for the customized job training program, but does not require businesses to match the state's cost.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 21      Nay 0